

(and listening to King's College Chapel Choir on Christmas Eve as we are preparing the sprouts and stuffing). And, of course, the giving of the beautiful Waldensian Calendars (I hope you've got yours!) to special members of the family and friends to remind us through the year of our connections to the Valleys.

God's Love 'came down at Christmas ... Love all lovely, Love divine'. The celebration of the birth of the Christ Child is so familiar that we sometimes lose its impact amidst all the preparations and the pressures of the commercial Christmas. May you discover space this year in your lives to let that love enter your hearts so that we can experience again the Love that was born at Christmas. Have a happy and joyous Christmas!

Yours, Tim Macquiban

The Huguenot Cross, symbol of Protestantism all over Europe

Huguenot Cross souvenirs and information can be obtained from:

The Huguenot Society, University College, Gower Street, London WC1E 6BT



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THE WALDENSIAN REVIEW



From the Editor

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Welcome to our second slimmed-down, money-saving Christmas newsletter!

It was good to see those of you who made it to the AwayDay in October. As usual the speakers were excellent: Ian Thomson on Primo Levi, Tim Macquiban on the conference at Rome University on 150 years of Methodism in Italy, Rachel and Alistair Morris on living in Turin and being part of the Waldensian community there. For details you will have to wait for the Summer issue, though.

What we were really delighted and grateful for was the presence of Eric Murray, who, as you may remember, had been seriously ill and is now much better and well on his way to recovery. Please continue to pray for him, as we have all been doing.

Please remember also to pray for Italy and to support our Mission in every way you can in these challenging times. Thanks to your help, 'our' Italian student, Luca Ghiretti has spent the year that all Waldensian-Methodist ordinands must spend abroad, studying at Wesley House in Cambridge. This is an essential part of their training and further on you will be able to read a fuller report from Luca on his time in Cambridge.

We are also happy that we have still managed to send some money for the young people's Confirmation class gatherings in Sicily. These reunions are essential in order to build a sense of belonging to the same Faith and in order to keep, or acquire, an identity different from that of the vast majority of Italy – with all-too-evident results.

No. 119 Christmas 2011

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LUCA GHIRETTI'S YEAR IN CAMBRIDGE



Luca, who already has an MA in Law and, instead of starting a lucrative career as a successful lawyer, decided to become a minister, passed with Merit his finals for the MA in Pastoral Theology with the Cambridge Theological Federation.

Of course, one year in Cambridge cannot be summarised in a few lines, but what was good to hear – when we last met just before he left, at Michaelhouse, a delightful church-cum-café in the very heart of the city – was that he was taking back, not just more theoretical knowledge, but also a great deal of experience beneficial to his future work as a minister in Italy. He has enjoyed every minute and every aspect of his

time at Wesley House and he is deeply grateful to our Committee and those of you who contributed to making his stay possible. He loved the course and the tutors and was delighted to be able to share study, worship and discussions in the theological seminars with fellow candidates for the ministry from different Christian denominations. So much which in Britain we take for granted, such as being able to preach and worship in different churches of so many different traditions and denominations, was for him a great adventure, and he is taking home memories and friendships to treasure for life.

He thinks that the profound theoretical study which is so important in the Waldensian Seminary is essential, but he found vital also the more practical aspects he has researched – alongside the Liturgy and the Sacraments – and how these aspects of worship are perceived by different branches of Protestantism. Studying the English Reformation and its ramifications has shed a new light on this country, which one really cannot understand nowadays without knowing its history.

Alongside his main studies at the Faculty of Divinity and the Cambridge Theological Federation, comprising Christian culture, Mission, Christian Spirituality, Gospel and Western culture, Schism, Conflict and Unity in the Church, Luca followed various seminars on Science and Religion at the Faraday Institute, took part in various lectures at the Henry Martyn Centre and listened to a public debate on Religion and Atheism with Rowan Williams. He also did the preparation for a Social Placement in a prison. Unfortunately, that was rendered impossible owing to the new nationality requirements for Prison Service Chaplains. Instead, he had a placement with Emmanuel URC, focusing on new ways of being **??something missing here??** church. Lastly, but not least, he now feels much more rooted into the Methodist tradition, having researched its history and various ramifications.

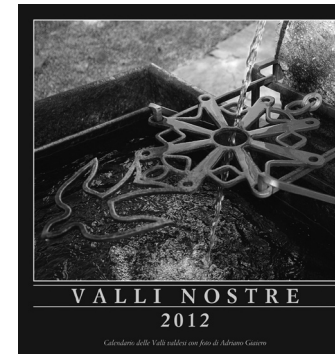
AWAY DAY 2012

Looking ahead: please put **Saturday 6 October 2012** on your **(WALDENSIAN!!)** calendar for our annual AWAY DAY. Do come and listen to some great speakers, meet new and old friends, buy books, calendars, biscuits, hear news about Italy and the Waldensian Church.

*God bless you all.
ESN, Editor*

WALDENSIAN CALENDARS 2011

Very beautiful again, stunning views of the Waldensian Valleys and Bible verses in five languages as usual. Still cheaper than commercial counterparts £8.50 (p&p included).



Please SEND cheques (payable to **Waldensian Church Mission**) to:

Milvia Walker, 19 Forest Approach, Woodford Green, IG8 9BW.

REMEMBER to include your own address! *You can have them sent directly to your friends: If you want to do it cheaply yourself you can roll them up in brown paper. Once in place they will fall flat and make a special addition to any kitchen, study, hall ...*

FROM the CHAIRMAN

Dear Friends,

Some things never change for us, Christmas by Christmas. The traditional food, prepared to family recipes, shared then with family and friends. The celebration of Christ's birth in our local churches with readings and carols